

Claim 1 (amended). Spring/mass vibratory force coupler with variable damping and variable spring stiffness for coupling masses to a reference mass, comprising at least a vibratory mass, a damper, and two springs, wherein said damper is attached to said vibratory mass and one of said two springs is connected between said damper and said reference mass, said coupling element being based on an electrorheological or magnetorheological fluid.

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel variable spring/mass vibratory coupler and to a method for modifying mechanical natural vibrations in machines, vehicle running gear and motors.

Claims 1-8 are pending, although claims 6 and 7 have been withdrawn from consideration as drawn to non-elected subject matter. The claims under consideration are therefore claims 1-5 and 8.

Applicants respectfully request that, upon the allowance of elected subject-matter, the non-elected subject matter be rejoined.

The drawings stand objected to because the Examiner requires that the spring 17 being connected up (i.e., not "optionally connected up" like spring 18) of claim 1 to be shown or the feature canceled from the claim.